

Professional and Managerial Branch  
Cultural Group  
Zoo Series

**ZOO VETERINARIAN**

06/98 (TLW)

### *Summary*

Under general direction, provide veterinary care and treatment for zoo animals, supervise veterinary care, staff and participate in decisions concerning animal management.

### *Typical Duties*

Administer veterinary care and treatment for zoo animals including clinical/preventive care, reproductive, pathology, anesthetic and surgical services. Involves: assisting in development, implementation and enforcement of animal care and disease control regulations; ensuring compliance with applicable animal care regulations and standards; planning scheduling, and recording preventive health and quarantine procedures; providing immediate medical attention to diseased or traumatized animals; performing epidemiological investigations; developing special programs to encourage reproduction among animals designated as endangered species; developing and maintaining detailed veterinary records using computerized record keeping system; assisting in maintenance of animal collection, identification, and inventory records; maintaining detailed records of animal drugs and supplies.

Participate in decisions concerning zoo animal management as member of senior level management team. Involves: providing expertise regarding acquisition, disposition, husbandry, behavioral enrichment, training, reproduction and environment of zoo animals; monitoring, developing and evaluating animal nutrition and diets; overseeing and coordinating animal related research; managing animal reproductive and contraceptive programs; consulting and assisting in public and employee education and training activities; acting as consultant to veterinarians in general practice seeking advice in treatment of exotic animals; maintaining liaison with other zoos, governmental agencies, and the general public in cooperation of local, national, and international conservation programs.

Supervise assigned personnel. Involves: scheduling, assigning, instructing, guiding, checking and evaluating work; arranging for or engaging in employee training and development; enforcing personnel rules and regulations, standards of conduct, work attendance, and safe work practices; counseling, motivating and maintaining harmonious working relationships among subordinates; recommending staffing and employee status changes; interviewing applicants and recommending selection.

Perform professional related duties as required. Involves: substituting, if assigned, for immediate supervisor during temporary absences by performing specified duties and responsibilities necessary to maintain continuity of operations and similarly performing duties of subordinates or coworkers.

### *Minimum Qualification*

Training and Experience: Graduation from an accredited college of veterinary medicine as Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and two (2) years varied responsible professional veterinary experience in exotic animal medicine and surgery or completion of residency in zoological medicine.

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills: Comprehensive knowledge of: modern methods and practices of veterinary medicine including exotic animal care, diagnostic procedures, treatment and disease control; epidemiological techniques; exotic animal nutrition, housing and environmental requirements. Good knowledge of animal species, behaviors, habitats and restraint systems.

Ability to: develop and implement comprehensive animal care programs; conduct epidemiological investigations; diagnose and treat animal health problems; firmly and impartially exercise supervisory authority and enforce established rules and regulations; express oneself clearly and concisely communicating both orally and in writing; establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, officials and the general public; prepare complex reports and maintain records.

Skill in the safe use and care of: veterinary equipment including remote injection, x-ray, endoscopy, monitoring and anesthetic equipment; handling and restraining zoo animals.

Physical Requirements: Mobility within a zoo environment; must handle and restrain zoo animals; lift and carry heavy objects (up to 50 lbs.); enter and access animal areas; work in humid and contaminated surroundings; work under all weather conditions.

Special Requirements: Be available for work beyond standard workday or workweek hours as necessary.

Licenses and Certificates: Licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Texas or licensed in another state and must obtain Texas license within one (1) year from date of hire. Must obtain Texas and DEA Controlled Substances Registrations, USDA Accreditation within six (6) months from date of hire. Texas Class "C" Drivers license or equivalent from another state.

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Director of Personnel

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Department Head

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